

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOE ARESIMOWICZ
HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

February 25, 2014

Good afternoon, Senator Leone, Representative Hennessy and members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. My name is Representative Joe Aresimowicz and I am submitting testimony in support of HB 5299, An Act Concerning the Findings of the Military Occupational Specialty Task Force.

I would like to take this moment to thank the chairs for forming the task force that put forth these recommendations. It is through the collaboration of the Connecticut Department of Labor's Office for Veterans' Working Development, educational institutions and other state agencies that this meaningful legislation was crafted.

As a veteran, this is a personal issue for me. When I left the service, I was not able to find employment that made use of my military experience, as a combat medic. Not being able to obtain employment in the same field as my military occupational specialty meant that, after serving my country and returning home to my family, the skills I developed while protecting our country could not be applied in the civilian world. I had performed a wide range of medical procedures but I was only considered qualified to work as a certified nurse's assistant when I returned home.

HB 5299 will give veterans returning from service an opportunity to continue being productive in the fields in which they have gained experience. This legislation will help lift unnecessary barriers that otherwise burden the men and women who have served our country honorably. It is for these reasons that I strongly support the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Joe Aresimowicz", written over a printed name.

Joe Aresimowicz